

Categorical Exclusion

A. Background

DOI-BLM-AKF010-2013-0031-CX

BLM Office: Arctic Field Office, Bureau of Land Management
1150 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844
<http://www.blm.gov/ak>
907-474-2200

Lease/Serial/Case File No.: FF096612

Proposed Action Title/Type: NPR-A Permit

Dates of Proposed Activity: June 15, 2013 – July 20, 2013

General Location of Proposed Action: Inigok, Alaska

Description of Proposed Action:

The applicant, Mike McCrary with 70 North, LLC has requested authorization to conduct an on-site evaluation of the Arctic Catering Camp at Inigok, and to prepare the camp for winter removal. The first trip would occur June 15th, 2013 and would be a day trip. A crew of three people would fly to Inigok via a fixed wing aircraft and spend a few hours on the ground evaluating the condition of the camp. The second trip would occur between June 22nd and July 20th. A crew of three people would organize and prepare the camp for the move. The crew would be on-site from two to seven days. They anticipate three fixed wing aircraft flights to and from Inigok for this activity.

70 North, LLC plans to haul their human waste to Deadhorse for disposal. The only fuel used would be propane used for cooking.

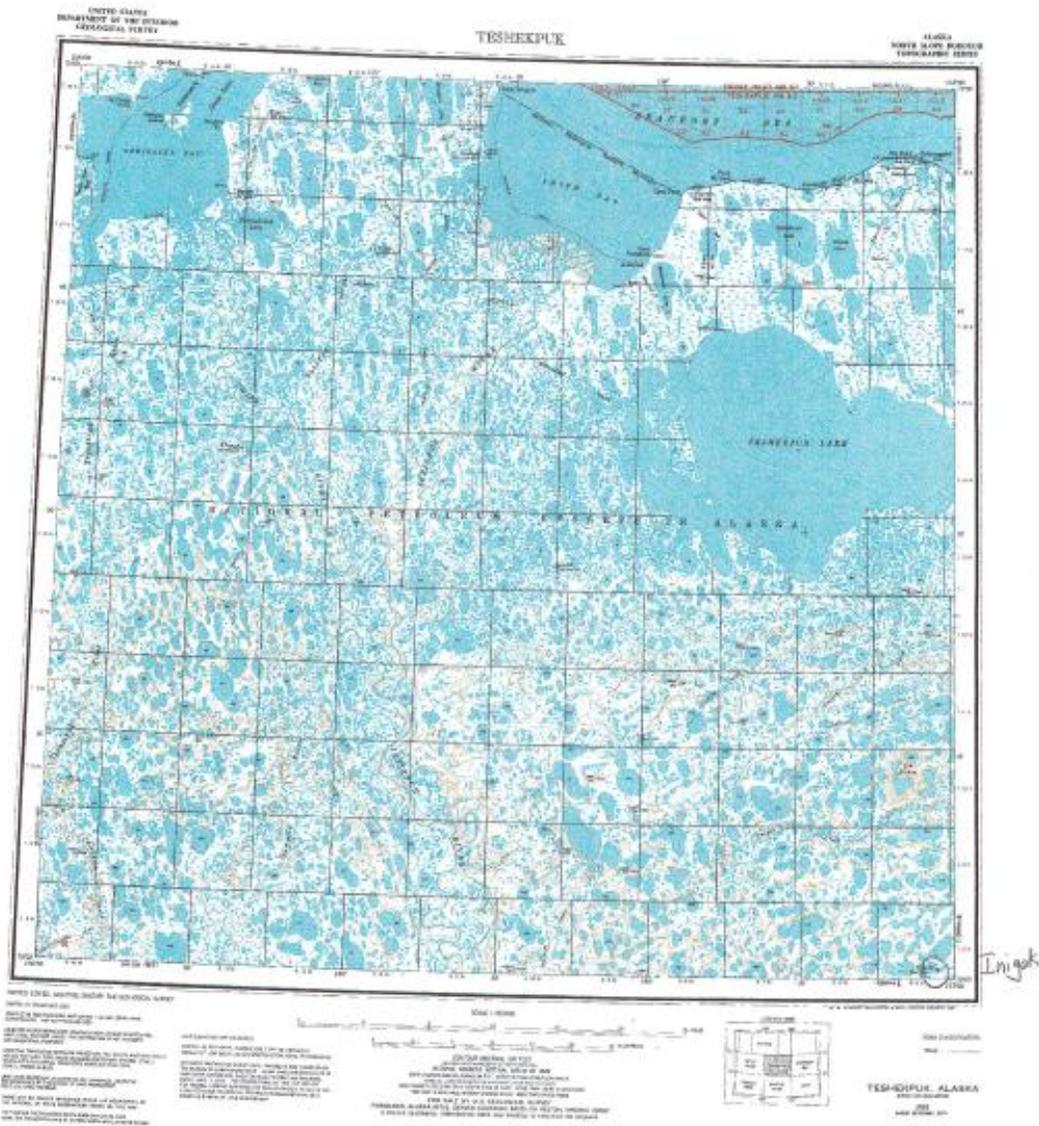


Figure 1: Teshekpuk, Alaska USGS Topo Map

Legal Description: Sections 34 & 35, Township 8 North, Range 5 West, Umiat Meridian

B. Land Use Plan Conformance

The proposed action is in conformance with the following planning document: National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) dated November 2012 and associated Record of Decision dated February 2013.

The proposed action is in conformance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, which allows for the authorization of uses consistent with the purposes of the Act.

C. Compliance with NEPA:

The IAP/EIS Record of Decision for the NPR-A developed stipulations and best management practices applicable to all activities in NPR-A. The stipulations and best management practices applicable to the proposed action will be provided, along with project-specific mitigation, to the applicant and are entitled: “FF096612 70 North LLC summer 2013 Stipulations”.

The Proposed Action is categorically excluded from further documentation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in accordance with 516 DM 2, Appendix 1, or 516 DM 11.9, Specifically the proposed action meets the criteria for a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 11.9, BLM H-1790-1 National Environmental Policy Act Handbook Appendix 4(F-10) BLM Categorical Exclusions.

“Nondestructive data collection, inventory (including field, aerial, and satellite surveying and mapping), study, research, and monitoring activities.”

This categorical exclusion is appropriate in this situation because there are no extraordinary circumstances potentially having effects that may significantly affect the environment. The proposed action has been reviewed, and none of the extraordinary circumstances described in 516 DM 2 apply.

Extraordinary Circumstances	Yes	No
2.1 Have significant impacts on public health or safety.		X
2.2 Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.		X
2.3 Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E)].		X
2.4 Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.		X
2.5 Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.		X
2.6 Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.		X
2.7 Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office.		X
2.8 Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species.		X
2.9 Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.		X
2.10 Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898).		X
2.11 Limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007).		X
2.12 Contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112).		X

D. Approval and Contact Information

I considered the proposed action and have determined that there is no potential for significant impacts

/s/Lon Kelly
Authorized Officer, Arctic Field Office

Date: June 11, 2013

Contact Person

For additional information concerning this CX review, contact:

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